



Port Security Information Bulletin (PSIB 13-03)



Special Interest Vessel, (SIV) Program Guidance for Iraqi (IZ) Merchant Vessels and other than Non-Entrant, (Category II) Merchant Vessels with Iraqi Crew Members

Vessels from or under the effective control, (includes those having owners, managing owners, those being operated by, and/or are under charter to entities of the Republic of Iraq) are currently prohibited from entering all ports, territorial seas, (12 nautical miles), and/or internal waters of the United States except under conditions of *Force Majeure*, or distress, or situations involving approved humanitarian or medical emergencies or innocent passage. This Port Security Information Bulletin is also directed to “other than” non-entrant vessels with Iraqi citizens serving as Master, Chief Mate, or Chief Engineer. These restrictions do not apply to Iraqi citizens who are passengers on cruise vessels.

Upon receiving notification that an Iraqi vessel or, an other than non-entrant vessel, as stated in the above paragraph, under the effective control of Iraq, intends to arrive at a port or place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, the Captain of the Port, (COTP) Houston-Galveston will issue an order denying the vessel entry into U.S. territorial seas.

Upon receiving notification than an other than non-entrant merchant vessel intends to arrive in the U.S. territorial seas, having Iraqi citizens serving as crewmembers, regardless of visa status, in positions other than Master, Chief Mate, or Chief Engineer, the COTP will issue an order to the vessel’s master to detain on-board, individual Iraqi crewmembers. The COTP will also issue orders to individual Iraqi crewmembers, requiring them to remain onboard.

Should the master, owner, operator, and/or agent or other person to whom the COTP order is issued, fails to comply with the COTP order, he and/or she would be subject to the penalty provisions of the Magnuson Act, which include imprisonment for up to 10 years, fines of 10,000 dollars and/or forfeiture of the vessel.

KEVIN S. COOK
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port